

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 MED-03 BNDD-05 CIAE-00 INR-09 IO-12

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-07 TRSE-00 USIA-12

NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-14 RSR-01 AID-20

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R 170950 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 903

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R P A R A 2

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: ALLEGED NEW FORM OF HEROIN

REF: (A) STATE 47956 NOTAL

(B) BRUSSELS 1383 NOTAL

1. SIMILAR STORY REPORTED RF A RAN IN SEVERAL NETHS NEWSPAPERS MARCH 14, QUOTING SAME FRENCH HOSPITAL OFFICIAL AS SAYING CHINESE COMMUNITY IN NETHS IS PRINCIPLE SOURCE OF SUBSTANCE KNOWN AS "BROWN SUGAR," ALLEGED TO CONTAIN 80 PERCENT PURE HEROIN. POLICE IN AMSTERDAM, WHERE ALL OF TRADE IN HEROPL IN NETHS HAS BEEN CONCENTRATED SO FAR, ISSUED STRONG DENIAL OF ALLEGATIONS IN STORY. HEAD OF AMSTERDAM NARCOTICS SQUAD TOLD PRESS THAT "IT IS STRANGE THAT WE HAVE NEVER BEEN INFORMED OF THIS VIA INTERPOL OR FRENCH JUSTICE AUTHORITIES." POLICE ALSO DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF ANY SUBSTANCE KNOWN AS "BROWN SUGAR."

2. DURING PAST THREE WEEKS OR SO, PURPORTED ROLE OF NETHS AS
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SOURCE OR TRANS- SHIPMENT POINT OF NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS TO EUROPE, PARTICULARLY TO FRANCE AND, TO LESSER EXTENT, FRG, HAS BEEN POPULAR SUBJECT IN PRESS REPORTING SUCH THINGS AS " FLOOD OF HEROIN" FROM NETHS INTO FRANCE AND DUTCH DEALERS TAKING OVER HEROIN MARKET IN PARIS. BOTH AMSTERDAM POLICE AND MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OFFICIALS HAVE CONDEMNED ALL OF THESE ACCOUNTS AS INACCURATE AND IRRESPONSIBLE, AND WE DO NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT WOULD CALL THAT JUDGEMENT INTO QUESTION. DUTCH OFFICIALS DO NOT DENY THAT HEROIN TRADE EXISTS IN NETHS AND IS GROWING. SEIZURE OF 30-40 POUNDS OF HEROIN (BROWN ROCK PURE) MADE BY AMSTERDAM POLICE MARCH 15 (REF B) IN COOPERATION WITH BNDD IS AMPLE PROOF OF THAT. DUTCH OFFICIALS DO, HOWEVER, DENY SENSATIONAL ALLEGATIONS REPORTED IN PRESS ABOUT ROLE OF NETHS IN EUROPEAN HEROIN TRADE AND HAVE CHALLENGED REPORTERS AND THEIR SOURCES TO PRODUCE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THEIR ALLEGATIONS. IN CHECK MADE MAR 16 BY CONGEN, AMSTERDAM POLICE CONTINUE TO DENY ANY KNOWLEDGE OF SUBSTANCE KNOWN AS " BRONW SUGAR."

3. DEPT SHOULD KNOW, INCIDENTALLY, THAT EMBASSY IS SEEKING WAYS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF INCREASED DUTCH PRESS INTEREST IN NARCOTICS MATTERS TO PLACE MATERIAL ON US NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORT PROMINENTLY IN PRESS HERE. WE WILL, OF COURSE, BE SINGLING OUT RESPONSIBLE REPORTERS TO ENSURE THAT MATERIAL PROVIDED IS NOT DISTORTED AND SENSATIONALIZED, PARTICULARLY AS IT CONCERNS POSSIBLE ROLE OF NETHS AS SOURCE OR TRANSHIPMENT POINT FOR NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE HAVE ALREADY MADE TENTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ONE DUTCH JOURNALIST TO MEET WITH BNDD REPS IN PARIS TO DEVELOP MATERIAL FOR STORY.

MIDDENDORF

NOTE BY OC/ T: SS AND AID TAKE AS ORIGINAL.

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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